

TROOPS JOIN PEASANT RAIDS.

AID THE PEOPLE IN SEIZING RUSSIAN ESTATES.

Uprising in the Agricultural Districts Now an Important Element in the Present Struggle. Count Witte Seems to Be Building on a Hopeless Foundation.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, Nov. 25.—We seem for the moment to be between the acts in the Russian drama. A great decisive element has, however, been introduced into the struggle, and the end can no longer be in doubt.

The Sun's St. Petersburg correspondent, telegraphing to-night, says the peasants' movement is rapidly transcending all other anxieties of the Government. News comes from every province that the peasants themselves have begun the distribution of landless estates. The writer has received letters from the typical, orthodox, loyal agricultural province of Yaroslavl, describing the attempt of the Governor to prevent invasions of private property, but where troops were sent the soldiers left their rifles and cartridge belts in the peasants' houses and joined them in marking out lots into which estates were being divided.

This seems to settle the critical question of the attitude of the troops. There has been very little burning of estates, but the owners are helpless, and they have transferred their residences to large towns. Several governors of provinces have warned the Government that it will be impossible to restore the estates to their owners. The peasants only view of the Imperial Duma is that it must assign them all agricultural lands immediately on assembling.

Discussing the situation at the capital The Sun's St. Petersburg correspondent says Count Witte, who will not give up power unless he is compelled to and would even then seek to force his way back, has nothing to offer the masses. He can find nothing more to do than build a political machine for himself. He has appealed to the French Government to give him the fullest public support and this despite the fact that he has never shown personal friendliness to France. He has induced his Cabinet to put in a joint memorandum to the Czar making their retention of office contingent on the manifesto of October 30 being binding. That is the risk that is to be used if the palace group should persuade the Czar to repudiate the manifesto.

Witte is also most active in creating the impression that he is indispensable to the middle community, who want neither military nor mob rule. This is beginning to bear fruit in the adhesions which have been coming to him for the last few days. Yet all the time he seems to be building on a hopeless foundation.

It is not an improvement of the old system that is demanded by the strongest force in Russia to-day. The masses are for outright collectivism. The reason we hear nothing of their leaders and much of their union of unions and federated groups is part of this ingrained idea that collectivism is the system for them. Russia has never shown any desire to develop along the line of the equality of opportunity, which has been the ideal of most Western political progress. The millions here are far more for sharing with each other when they can get the wherewithal to share.

The Russians are the most democratic people in the world. They have no innate deference for patrician caste or the successful man. The action of their strike leaders is based on the principle that their associations may be not only stronger but wiser than the individuals of which they are composed. Thus we get the amazing collection of unions which are being trained to common action against both the autocracy and the whole bureaucratic system.

MUTINEERS RULE SEVASTOPOL.

Governor Says He Is Powerless to Resist Sailors' Demands.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.

SEVASTOPOL, Nov. 25.—The sailors of the Black Sea fleet attempted to hold a meeting yesterday. Vice-Admiral Bereznevki appeared on the scene and forbade the meeting, threatening to disperse any assembly of that kind with the aid of troops, who would fire on them if necessary. The sailors thereupon fired and wounded the Admiral.

The sailors of the Black Sea fleet and the soldiers of the Brest-Litovsk regiment are now in a state of mutiny. The harbor men are joining them.

ODessa, Nov. 25.—The Black Sea mutineers have sent a black coffin to the Admiral of the fleet, with a warning to leave Sevastopol within three days. They have stopped all railway traffic. The situation is increasing in gravity hourly. Troops have been sent to Sevastopol from this place.

ST. PETERSBURG, Nov. 25.—The mutiny at Sevastopol was similar in its beginning to the mutiny on board the battleship Kniaz Potemkin.

It is said that the troops refused to attack the mutineers when they came ashore. The Vice-Admiral in command of the squadron was wounded.

The Governor has reported to the Admiralty that in his present position he must accede to the sailors' demands.

The agitation among the officers of the infantry regiments in St. Petersburg against constant police duty is now unceasing. The officers of four regiments have signed their names to a letter on the subject addressed to the Russ.

Don Cossacks to the number of sixty sotnias, about 8,000 men, have been mobilized. Their tradition is personal devotion to the Emperor. They will be posted this winter near St. Petersburg.

The Minister of Finance shows in his budget a deficit of 600,000,000 rubles, under the heading of extraordinary expenditures, which includes the maintenance of the prisoners in Japan.

A ukase is published to-night abolishing the power of Governor General of St. Petersburg, Assistant Minister of the Interior and Chief of Police, which were held until recently by Gen. Treppoff.

According to the latest despatches from Sevastopol the place is in a state of panic. Soldiers, sailors and workmen are parading the streets carrying red flags.

BRITAIN TO JOIN IN JAMESTOWN EXPOSITION.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, Nov. 25.—President Tucker says he interviewed the Marquis of Lansdowne, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, last night and presented to him President Roosevelt's invitation to Great Britain to send a representation to the Jamestown (Va.), exposition of 1907. Lord Lansdowne cordially accepted the invitation.

TAGUS MAKES SUCCESSFUL TRIP ON NEW LINE.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.

SOUTHAMPTON, Nov. 25.—The steamship Tagus, the first of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's new service between Southampton and New York by way of the West Indies, has returned from New York. The officers of the company said that the service is proving successful and will be continued.

CHINA URGED TO BE LIBERAL.

Pekin Newspapers Favor Granting the Demands of Japan.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.

TOKYO, Nov. 25.—The negotiations at Peking between Baron Komura, the Japanese Foreign Minister, and the Chinese officials regarding Manchuria absorb general attention here. The special correspondent of the Kokumin at Peking telegraphs that everything is proceeding smoothly. Some of the foreign ministers are urging China to pursue a strong policy, but the Peking newspapers are in favor of dealing in a generous way with Japan, pointing out the advantages to China of Japan's friendship as against that of Europe and America. They argue that the terms offered by Baron Komura are entirely reasonable. Asia and Japan are the representative Asiatic races and should work in harmony.

The Hock's correspondent reports that the Chinese Viceroy does not look with favor upon the proposition that China should let the railway as they believe that Japan would employ the purchase money to increase her armament.

Secretary Wilson of the American Legation here formally notified the Foreign Office this afternoon that the United States Legation to Japan had assumed charge of American diplomatic interests in Korea.

A despatch from Seoul says that Marquis Ito has entirely recovered from the slight injuries he received when a stone thrown by a Korean crashed through the window of a car in which he was riding the other day and the glass cut his face. He will leave Seoul next Tuesday and will arrive here on December 8.

The Emperor has given his sanction to a grand ovation to Field Marshal Oyama when he arrives here on December 6. The entire Imperial Guard division of about 10,000 men will be drawn up to receive him.

In connection with the signing of the treaty restoring relations between Russia and Japan, the Nichi Nichi reports that in addition to the mutual accrediting of new ministers Imperial envoys will visit St. Petersburg and Tokyo. Prince Fushima, in behalf of Japan, and the Grand Duke Vladimir, representing Russia, will visit the respective capitals for the purpose of placing the two courts on their old friendly footing.

Indications of post-bellum finance appear in the outlines of Government bills which are to be presented to the Diet. These provide for the withdrawal of the 180,000 yen annual subsidy to the Japan Steamship Company's Bombay line, and substituting therefor services to Korea and China; an appropriation of 1,600,000 yen for telegraphs and telephones in Manchuria, Korea and Sakhalin, and the sale of the match monopoly to the Koba-Osaka Match Trust for an annual royalty of 2,000,000 yen.

EASY TO DISPERSE BERLIN MOB.

Police Well Trained and Not Alarmed by Socialists' Threats.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.

BERLIN, Nov. 25.—The German Social Democratic party has been threatening to arrange revolutionary demonstrations in favor of a reform of the Prussian electoral law. The weekly review, Der Deutsche, in discussing this declares that a revolt in Berlin is impossible.

The proposal to hold street demonstrations is of itself a criminal offense, but even if revolutionary or other undesirable demonstrations occurred they could be suppressed practically at once. The Berlin police have an elaborate scheme of mobilization for the suppression of a popular uprising at the Capitol which is as complete as the plan for the mobilization of an army in case of war.

The city is divided into a number of sections and the exact measures to be taken in each section are laid down with great precision. A revolutionary mob advancing on the imperial palace and government offices would find itself quickly split into a number of smaller forces, each surrounded within prearranged squares by troops and police.

CHINA SENDS EGGS TO ENGLAND.

Supplying the Market Which Russia Is Losing Through Strikes.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, Nov. 25.—It may seem strange that the British breakfast table should be directly affected by the agrarian troubles in Russia, but such is the fact. The daily supply of such a basic British food as eggs, some hundred million of these breakfast eggs come annually from Russia, but the supply has now dropped. There are no peasants to collect the eggs, no carriers to take them to the stations and no trains to convey them to ships.

It is now suggested that China may take Russia's place as the egg provider for Great Britain. A furrier who was one of the last to escape from Port Arthur before the siege brought with him a consignment of Chinese eggs to London. His friends here appreciated them and asked for more. A firm secured another consignment from China which proved a success, and now has the eggs preserved by a secret process, which it is asserted keeps them good for a year.

HAMBURG-AMERICAN CHARGES.

Herr Ballin Gives His Side of the Row With the North German Lloyd.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.

BERLIN, Nov. 25.—In connection with the withdrawal of the Hamburg-American Steamship Company from the transatlantic combination, Herr Ballin, the director general of that company, charges the North German Lloyd management with imitating his company in competing for the general traffic to Philadelphia, which had first been developed by the Hamburg-American. He also charges that, contrary to agreement, the North German company replied to the purchases by the Hamburg-American of a strangers' travel bureau at Berlin by establishing a competing bureau.

SPAIN'S PLAN FOR DEFENCE.

To Strengthen Fortifications in the Canary and Balearic Islands.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.

MADRID, Nov. 25.—In the Chamber of Deputies to-day, Gen. Weyler, Minister of War, announced a bill to strengthen the defenses of the coast of Galicia and of the Canary and Balearic Islands, and to increase the mountain artillery.

Cuba Withdraws Butter Case.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.

HAVANA, Nov. 25.—The case against Swift & Co., charged by the Cuban Government with selling oleomargarine as broadhead butter, closes to-day. The firm withdrew the charge against the company for want of evidence. The agents of Swift & Co. brought a number of experts here from the United States to show that the butter was pure.

TREWESBURY IN LONDON JAIL.

BUCKTSHOP KEEPER CHARGED WITH PASSING BAD CHECK.

Left Debts of \$400,000 Here When He Disappeared After Flying High for Several Years—His Wife, Former Actress, Figured in Suit Against A. L. Barber.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, Nov. 25.—Lewis Green Trewesbury, who is charged with obtaining \$125 by means of a worthless check, was before the Bow Street Extradition Court to-day and was remanded. It is understood that the New York police want him.

The New York police, it was said last night, do not want Trewesbury. He came here in 1888 from Manchester, N. H., where he ran a drug store. He opened a bookshop, which in its day was the biggest thing of the kind, indulging his taste for the finest pacing and trotting horses and built a splendid house at 27 West Seventy-seventh street. Among his homes at one time were John R. Gentry and Robert J.

In 1895 the Consolidated Exchange suspended him for a year for failing to approve of his financial methods. He sold his seat in 1897. Then his business went to pieces and he sold out, losing his Seventy-second street house, which was said to have cost \$500,000. He began business again down town, but in July, 1900, disappeared from New York, leaving debts aggregating \$400,000. He turned up first in Mexico and then went to London. There last May he issued a statement promising to settle with his creditors. Later he failed in London for \$25,000.

Trewesbury's wife was a Western actress, Violet Aubrey Butler, whom he married in London on May 14, 1904. She was divorced from Butler, who was an English fighter and Confederate General. His first wife was Mrs. Mary Mills Greenhut, whom he married in 1899. They were divorced in 1902.

The present Mrs. Trewesbury brought suit at the beginning of this year against Amzi L. Barber, president of the Barber Asphalt Company, to recover the amount of a draft, one for \$100,000 and another for \$4,800, which she alleged he delivered to her on October 15, 1903, for a valuable consideration. When the drafts were presented for payment they weren't honored.

ROOT AIDS JEW FUND.

Sends a Check and a Letter to Arnold Kohn—\$27,570 Is Schiff's Total.

The following letter was received yesterday by Arnold Kohn from Secretary of State Elihu Root:

MY DEAR MR. KOHN: In response to your letter of November 21 I enclose a check for the fund now being raised for the relief of the unfortunate Jews who have been subjected to such dreadful cruelties in Russia. I do not see how any one can fail to sympathize deeply with them in their suffering and to help them in the present disorder and change in that country there may come a better day of security and freedom for them.

We have little power to help them, but for some of the homeless and despoiled money may be helpful, and for some who are in despair the knowledge that there is friendship and sympathy in the world may be an encouragement, and the expression of abhorrence and condemnation by the civilized world for the cruelties which have been perpetrated may in time come to have some little restraining effect.

With the best wishes for your good work I am Very sincerely yours,

ELI H. ROOT.

At the State Bank, in Grand street, of which Mr. Kohn is president, \$15,539.38 had been received up to last night for relief of sufferers by the Russian massacres. The fund of which Jacob H. Schiff is treasurer was increased by \$29,515 yesterday and now amounts to \$27,570. A check for \$5,000 from J. Pierpont Morgan was the largest single subscription received.

Accompanying a check from President J. G. Schurman of Cornell University was this letter addressed to Mr. Schiff:

I enclose herewith my check for the fund in relief of the suffering Jews of Russia, whose terrible condition appeals to the universal heart of mankind.

The atrocities of the Russian mob have been beyond all description or imagination. Such an exhibition of bigotry, intolerance and hatred has not been known since the spread of the history of mankind. And to crown the horrors of it the Jewish mob invoke the name of Jesus of Nazareth, who preached good will to men and founded a religion of love, compassion and brotherhood.

My prayer is that the Christians of America may in this Thanksgiving week remember with compassion and help with generous contributions their sorely stricken Jewish brethren in Russia.

TYLER TELLS THEATRICAL PLANS.

Stand Play for Miss Robson—Ellis Jeffreys Coming Back.

George C. Tyler, managing director for Liebler & Co., returned yesterday on the Lusania with a budget of theatrical plans. His most important announcement was that Edmond Rostand, the French dramatist, was at work on a play for Eleanor Robson, who will be ready for production next season. Miss Robson opens at Daly's on February 3 in a new play, the title of which has not yet been announced.

Ellis Jeffreys is coming back under the management of Liebler & Co. this season, and she opens here on January 22 next. She will have two plays to present, one called "The Hostess," by the author of "Cousin Kate," and "The Fanny of Mr. Vandervelt," by Alfred Sutro.

Mr. Tyler came back sooner than he intended. He was compelled to return to complete arrangements for Elsie Janis's debut as a star in "The Vanderbilt Cup," a new musical comedy. Eugene Kreschey, the dramatist, accompanied Mr. Tyler on his trip and returned with him. Presbury and hired halls at his own expense.

"My agreement with M. Rostand is the culmination of a long struggle," he said. "It was to close the matter with him that I went to Europe a month ago. When I arrived in Paris I found that M. Rostand was at his home at Cambly in the south of France and I went down there by automobile to see him. My interview with him was entirely satisfactory in every way and we very quickly reached an agreement."

"At M. Rostand's own request Louis N. Parker, who made the English adaptation of "L'Aiglon," will also put this play into English and will be in London."

"I have also purchased a new comedy entitled 'Sir Anthony' from Haddon Chambers, the author of 'The Tyranny of Fear' and other successes. Mr. Chambers will come over to stage this play, but I have not yet decided who will be the star of it."

Watch for Jerome Campaigner.

The members of the Hamilton Athletic Club, in Cherry street, gave a gold watch charm and fob to William S. McGuire last night. Mr. McGuire had charge of Mr. Jerome's campaign in the Second Assembly district and hired halls at his own expense. He founded the club. Ex-Assemblyman J. P. Burke made the presentation speech.

Czar to Hear Polish Delegates.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.

WARSAW, Nov. 25.—The Emperor will receive a Polish deputation to-morrow at Tsarsko-Selo.

Want to Arm Russian Jews.

An appeal for funds to buy arms for the Jews in Russia will be made at a mass meeting to be held in the Grand Central Palace at 8 o'clock to-night. The Rev. Dr. Peters, Rabbi Silverman and others will speak.

"HAENSEL UND GRETEL" SANG.

HUMPERDINCK'S FAIRY OPERA HEARD AGAIN.

A Nursery Tale Treated Musically in the Wagnerian Fashion—A Huge Melodrama Traversed—"Tannhauser" in the Evening.

Engelbert Humperdinck is a tall, slender man with a bulging forehead, a drooping mustache and a chin beard trimmed down almost to imperial dimensions. He looks like a German professor of botany or chemistry or some equally peaceful and practical science. No one would suspect him of being a humorist of the first water, a parodist such as the world has seldom seen, a good natured carver of delectable burlesque—in short, an artist in the difficult art of making fun seriously.

But that is what he is, and it was demonstrated once again yesterday afternoon, when his "fairy opera" called "Hänsel und Gretel" was performed for the first time in the Metropolitan Opera House. The composer had come all the way across the western ocean to be present at the production, and he responded to the applause at the end of the second act and at the close of the opera.

"Hänsel und Gretel" was given under the direction of Sir Augustus Harris and the conductorship of Anton Seidl at Daly's Theatre in the autumn of 1895, but it was not a success. The reasons for its failure have already been noted in this journal. Whether it will displace its treasures to the public which patronizes Mr. Corried's huge establishment remains to be seen. "Hänsel und Gretel" is apparently a simple work, but the truth is that its real merits do not lie upon the surface.

The story is one known to every child in Germany. It is one of their familiar fairy tales, their version of the "Babes in the Wood." Hänsel and Gretel, brother and sister, are sent out to pick berries, are lost in the forest, are frightened by imaginary terrors, are guarded through the night by angels, and in the morning come to the dwelling of a witch, who lives in a gingerbread house and has many little boys and girls held in enchantment. She prepares to bake a cake, in her oven, but the children contrive to push her into the flames, and thus her reign comes to an end.

Where does Humperdinck's huge joke appear? Everywhere in his music. He was one of the Wagnerian coterie at Bayreuth. He used to ring the bells in "Parsifal" and he taught young Siegfried Wagner the ropes of the Wagnerian drama at his father's ends and he utilized his knowledge to turn out a score in which the whole machinery of the "Meistersinger" is employed to weave a musical invective for this fairy tale.

There are leading motives and orchestral depictions of the tale and of its characters. The motives are all taken from German children's songs or are composed in their style, while the orchestral developments are built up in the Wagnerian manner.

The leading themes are not too numerous, and there is considerable force descriptive composition. On the other hand, over and over again the composer imitates Wagner in his most familiar strains. Melodic and harmonic sequences from "Die Meistersinger," "Tannhauser," "Götterdämmerung," "Der Ring des Nibelungen" and other works are recognizable. The laugh of the three daughters springs upon us in thin disguise as the laugh of the children, and the Eugene Kreschey melody of the third act is "Tannhauser" reappears in portentous accents as the song of the dreadful old witch.

This is a kind of joke that is not for every passerby. You have to know your Wagner to find the "Ride of the Valkyries" in the broom ride of the witch, but it is unmistakably there. You need to be acquainted with the child-like song of Germany to appreciate the piquancy of the contrasts provided by the juxtaposition of the first and second acts with the imposing climaxes of instrumentation in which all the resources of the modern orchestra are called into play to sing the advent of dawn angels and the awful vision of a picture book witch.

There is another aspect of the work, however, which must not escape notice. Humperdinck has been completely successful in weaving a web of musical illusion around some of the scenes of the little play. The second act is in this respect masterly. The composer has created a genuine atmosphere of loneliness when the two children realize that they are lost in the wood, and the mystic, weird effect of the echo sung by a variant chorus is a veritable stroke of genius.

The prayer of the children, as they lay them down to sleep, is lovely, and the building up of it in the dream music, so familiar to the concert platform in the days of Seidl, is superb. The two duets of the children in the third act are charming in their cheerfulness and simple melody. But it is hardly worth while to fill space with particularizing. The whole score is delightful and those who fail to discern the impish humor of the opera will find pleasure in its frank tunefulness and its rich instrumental texture.

Whether it is just the sort of work to outgrow the audience which patronize the Metropolitan Opera House will be decided by the public. It seems as if it might be disappointing to people trained to regard opera as an entertainment in which singers possessing great voices sing in a grand manner music built on a huge scale.

When these same people find themselves confronted with a purely comic opera, which offers only one male voice, and that a barytone, no love interest, no sentimental scenes, no passionate duets, none of the paraphernalia of the world of grand opera, they may possibly ask themselves questions.

However, this is a matter for future consideration. In the meantime the record of the performance stands. "Hänsel und Gretel" apparently pleased yesterday afternoon's audience, which was composed chiefly of women and children. The principals concerned in the work were Lina Abarbanell as Hänsel, Bella Allen as Gretel, Marion Need as Gertrude, the mother, Otto Gortz as Peter, the father, Louise Homer as the Witch, Miss Mulford as the Sandmann and Miss Glanville as the Demon.

There was not much in the shape of singing in the performance. Miss Abarbanell made a pleasing impression by her appearance as Hänsel, but the truth is that her impersonation had little to com-

Plumstein

WEST 125TH ST.

Store open until 10 o'clock Thanksgiving Eve.

Special Thanksgiving Offerings.

- 24x24 Japanese Drawn Towel 75c
- Fine Linen Squares 1.98
- 18x18 Cluny Centerpieces 1.98
- LUNCH SETS Hemstitched, 1 dozen 2.98
- EXTRA FINE LUNCH AND DINNER SETS Napkins to match a set 4.98
- 12-INCH IRIS 1 L. NEN. JOBLE OAKASK; value \$1.25, at... a yard, 90c
- Napkins to match, full dinner size; value \$4.00, at... a dozen, 2.98
- Table Knives, 1/2 doz., 1.19 to 6.50
- Table Spoons and Forks, 1/2 doz., 98c to 6.98
- ELA ORA ELY DE ORATEJ BREAD TRAY, Fruit Dishes and 5 Bottle Casters; value \$1.50, at 98c
- CARLS AD CHINA DINNER SETS handsome decorations, 101 pieces, with 12 place plates, 12.98
- VERY FINE CHINA DINNER SETS beautiful floral decorations, gold traced and lined, 101 pieces, with Soup Tureen; value \$25.00, 18.98
- CARLIN SETS rag handle, best American steel 79c, 1.49, 2.75
- 16-INCH TURKEY PLATE, flow blue decorations; value \$1.00... 59c
- ROASTING PAN, any size; value up to 29c; your choice 9c

WEST 125TH ST., 7TH & 8TH AVES.

"HAENSEL UND GRETEL" SANG.

HUMPERDINCK'S FAIRY OPERA HEARD AGAIN.

A Nursery Tale Treated Musically in the Wagnerian Fashion—A Huge Melodrama Traversed—"Tannhauser" in the Evening.

Engelbert Humperdinck is a tall, slender man with a bulging forehead, a drooping mustache and a chin beard trimmed down almost to imperial dimensions. He looks like a German professor of botany or chemistry or some equally peaceful and practical science. No one would suspect him of being a humorist of the first water, a parodist such as the world has seldom seen, a good natured carver of delectable burlesque—in short, an artist in the difficult art of making fun seriously.

But that is what he is, and it was demonstrated once again yesterday afternoon, when his "fairy opera" called "Hänsel und Gretel" was performed for the first time in the Metropolitan Opera House. The composer had come all the way across the western ocean to be present at the production, and he responded to the applause at the end of the second act and at the close of the opera.

"Hänsel und Gretel" was given under the direction of Sir Augustus Harris and the conductorship of Anton Seidl at Daly's Theatre in the autumn of 1895, but it was not a success. The reasons for its failure have already been noted in this journal. Whether it will displace its treasures to the public which patronizes Mr. Corried's huge establishment remains to be seen. "Hänsel und Gretel" is apparently a simple work, but the truth is that its real merits do not lie upon the surface.

The story is one known to every child in Germany. It is one of their familiar fairy tales, their version of the "Babes in the Wood." Hänsel and Gretel, brother and sister, are sent out to pick berries, are lost in the forest, are frightened by imaginary terrors, are guarded through the night by angels, and in the morning come to the dwelling of a witch, who lives in a gingerbread house and has many little boys and girls held in enchantment. She prepares to bake a cake, in her oven, but the children contrive to push her into the flames, and thus her reign comes to an end.

Where does Humperdinck's huge joke appear? Everywhere in his music. He was one of the Wagnerian coterie at Bayreuth. He used to ring the bells in "Parsifal" and he taught young Siegfried Wagner the ropes of the Wagnerian drama at his father's ends and he utilized his knowledge to turn out a score in which the whole machinery of the "Meistersinger" is employed to weave a musical invective for this fairy tale.

There are leading motives and orchestral depictions of the tale and of its characters. The motives are all taken from German children's songs or are composed in their style, while the orchestral developments are built up in the Wagnerian manner.

The leading themes are not too numerous, and there is considerable force descriptive composition. On the other hand, over and over again the composer imitates Wagner in his most familiar strains. Melodic and harmonic sequences from "Die Meistersinger," "Tannhauser," "Götterdämmerung," "Der Ring des Nibelungen" and other works are recognizable. The laugh of the three daughters springs upon us in thin disguise as the laugh of the children, and the Eugene Kreschey melody of the third act is "Tannhauser" reappears in portentous accents as the song of the dreadful old witch.

This is a kind of joke that is not for every passerby. You have to know your Wagner to find the "Ride of the Valkyries" in the broom ride of the witch, but it is unmistakably there. You need to be acquainted with the child-like song of Germany to appreciate the piquancy of the contrasts provided by the juxtaposition of the first and second acts with the imposing climaxes of instrumentation in which all the resources of the modern orchestra are called into play to sing the advent of dawn angels and the awful vision of a picture book witch.

There is another aspect of the work, however, which must not escape notice. Humperdinck has been completely successful in weaving a web of musical illusion around some of the scenes of the little play. The second act is in this respect masterly. The composer has created a genuine atmosphere of loneliness when the two children realize that they are lost in the wood, and the mystic, weird effect of the echo sung by a variant chorus is a veritable stroke of genius.

The prayer of the children, as they lay them down to sleep, is lovely, and the building up of it in the dream music, so familiar to the concert platform in the days of Seidl, is superb. The two duets of the children in the third act are charming in their cheerfulness and simple melody. But it is hardly worth while to fill space with particularizing. The whole score is delightful and those who fail to discern the impish humor of the opera will find pleasure in its frank tunefulness and its rich instrumental texture.

Whether it is just the sort of work to outgrow the audience which patronize the Metropolitan Opera House will be decided by the public. It seems as if it might be disappointing to people trained to regard opera as an entertainment in which singers possessing great voices sing in a grand manner music built on a huge scale.

When these same people find themselves confronted with a purely comic opera, which offers only one male voice, and that a barytone, no love interest, no sentimental scenes, no passionate duets, none of the paraphernalia of the world of grand opera, they may possibly ask themselves questions.

However, this is a matter for future consideration. In the meantime the record of the performance stands. "Hänsel und Gretel" apparently pleased yesterday afternoon's audience, which was composed chiefly of women and children. The principals concerned in the work were Lina Abarbanell as Hänsel, Bella Allen as Gretel, Marion Need as Gertrude, the mother, Otto Gortz as Peter, the father, Louise Homer as the Witch, Miss Mulford as the Sandmann and Miss Glanville as the Demon.

There was not much in the shape of singing in the performance. Miss Abarbanell made a pleasing impression by her appearance as Hänsel, but the truth is that her impersonation had little to com-

Lord & Taylor

Broadway and 20th St., Fifth Av., 19th St.

Have Prepared for This Week

A SPECIAL SALE OF

Women's Coats

at a remarkably attractive price.

As a result of preparations made for the last two weeks this sale will consist of several hundred coats made from our special designs and embodying the best fabrics, perfection of fit, style and finish. This is the greatest sale of Women's and Misses' Coats ever attempted by our